

HOUSE BILL 726

By Hensley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 15,  
Chapter 2, to designate Gold Star Mother's Day as  
a day of special observance.

WHEREAS, Americans pay tribute to those individuals who have helped to secure  
enduring blessings of peace and freedom; and

WHEREAS, Memorial Day and Veterans Day are designated to honor the sacrifice of  
Americans who have served in the United States Armed Forces and to celebrate those who  
have served and the values of duty, honor and civic responsibility Americans hold as a nation;  
and

WHEREAS, Gold Star Mother's Day is intended to honor women who deserve special  
recognition and gratitude for their tremendous personal loss on behalf of our country; and

WHEREAS, during the early days of World War I, a Blue Star was used to represent  
each soldier in the military service of the United States; and

WHEREAS, as the war progressed and soldiers were killed or wounded in combat or  
died from wounds or disease, a Gold Star superimposed over the Blue Star designated the loss  
of these individuals; and

WHEREAS, this tradition recognized soldiers for their ultimate sacrifice to our country;  
and

WHEREAS, the Gold Star offered families an outward symbol by which to honor the loss  
of a loved one; and

WHEREAS, in 1928, the Gold Star tradition was formalized in Washington, D.C. by a  
group of mothers who had lost sons and daughters in service to their country and who met to

form the American Gold Star Mothers organization - a nondenominational, nonprofit, and nonpolitical organization; and

WHEREAS, in 1936, President Franklin Roosevelt recognized Gold Star Mothers for their strength and inspiration to this country; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's Gold Star Mothers, whose sons and daughters have died in defense of the ideals of individual liberty, should be honored and offered respect and gratitude; and

WHEREAS, the sons and daughters of Tennessee's Gold Star Mothers have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and in places such as Afghanistan and Iraq; and

WHEREAS, this nation remembers these young men and women with pride and deepest appreciation; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the courage of Gold Star Mothers, the United States Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 115 of June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895), designated the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Mother's Day," which resolved authorizing and requesting that the President issue a proclamation in observance of this day; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 15, Chapter 2, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

§ 15-2-120.

The last Sunday in September of each year shall be observed as "Gold Star Mother's Day," to be proclaimed as such by the governor, to honor Tennessee's Gold Star Mothers for their courage, resolve, and strength in the face of great personal loss. State agencies, interested organizations, and groups and individuals are encouraged to fly the United States flag on this day as a public expression of our state's sympathy and respect for our Gold Star Mothers. This day shall not be a legal holiday as defined in § 15-1-101.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.